

**Town of Barrington  
Economic Development Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 19, 2016**

**Members Present:**

Matthew Amaral, Robert Humm, Mark Etheridge, Jim Sanderson, Buddy Violet, Joan Warren and Dick Wilbur. Also present: Town Board liaison Michael Carroll and Town Manager Peter DeAngelis.

1. Call to Order at 7:08 PM
2. April 28 Minutes were approved unanimously with two small edits.
3. Chair Rob Humm next welcomed and introduced Town of Barrington Town Manager Peter DeAngelis.
4. Mr. DeAngelis responded to a series of questions compiled by EDC Members to help us in our continued deliberation of one of our main mandates - consideration of whether the Town should hire a part- or full-time business liaison person. Mr. DeAngelis provided insight into the history of the Town's earlier experiment with such a position, his own efforts over the years to engage and support the business community, and the current state of the business "atmosphere" in town. In general, he believes that relations between the Town management and the business community are good. Over the years communication has waxed and waned, often due to individual efforts on both sides. From a town governance perspective, he recognizes that there are issues - e.g., the process and length of time it takes a business to obtain permission for signage - that need attention, but that his general policy has always been to remain engaged with the business community and to be as responsive as possible. He understands that the Town perennially suffers from a reputation of not being business friendly, but that over the years his attempts to pin down specific issues that could be improved upon have yielded very little in the way of concrete complaints. That said, he believes that communications is always the most important part of his job, and he welcomes the opportunity to improve communications with the business community and to respond to specific shortcomings of Town operations that would support/improve the business climate. In that regard, he hopes to improve coordination with the Barrington Business Association.
5. Given the expected Town budget shortfall represented by the impending construction of a new middle school in town, Mr. DeAngelis believes the Council would be hard pressed to justify the creation of a new business liaison position without strong supporting arguments. Rather, he believes that efforts to improve communications with the Barrington Business Association

will go a long way towards identifying and improving governance process shortcomings. He also feels that the creation of the EDC is a good development and that the EDC can play a very positive role in identifying issues for the Town executive to address. Topics he suggested could be addressed immediately include revamping of the "Opening a Business in Barrington" pamphlet, the creation of pre-approved signage templates, a review of various business-related regulations and ordinances, and the creation of a new ordinance related to Food Trucks.

6. The Meeting next returned to its ongoing discussion of Food Trucks under Agenda item 5, and spent the remainder of the Meeting schedule in review of a proposed Barrington Town ordinance related to mobile food vendors/food trucks. The proposed ordinance was drafted after a review of similar ordinances passed by the City of Providence and Town of Cranston. Members provided various improvements and identified sections of concern. A motion was proposed and passed unanimously to approve the draft ordinance as amended through discussion and to forward the same to the Town Council for approval and adoption.
7. Due to time limitation, item 6 was tabled until a future meeting.
8. Item 7: Future Meetings: dates for the next few meetings were agreed upon - June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17 and December 15, 2016. Robb reminded the Meeting that Town of Bristol Economic Development officer Jessica Pfaumler will join us on June 16 to explain the justification for and duties of her new position in Bristol.
9. As time did not permit, there was no Open Discussion under Item 8.
10. The Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.